

*B3*

and limited by a peripheral boundary defined by the spatial restriction of the crossing energy impingement, to crosslink the portion of the crosslinkable material in the mold cavity to a degree sufficient to form the molding capable of being released from said mold, wherein the edge contour of the molding is determined substantially by the spatial restriction of the energy impingement, thereby producing a molding substantially free from burrs or flashes.

### REMARKS

#### *Remaining Claims*

Claims 1, 40 and 79 have been amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the invention. After these amendments are entered, seventy seven (77) claims (Claims 1-5, 8-40, 42-61 and 63-81) remain pending in this application through this Amendment. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the **claims** by the present amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Marking To Show Changes Made."

#### **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 1-4, 8-40, 42-61 and 63-81 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark. For the following reasons, the Examiner's rejection over claims 1-4, 8-40, 42-61 and 63-81 is respectfully traversed.

Clark discloses an apparatus and a process for forming lenses. According to Clark, "the term 'lens' includes lenses which are cast in the final desired shape (except for edging) as well as semi-finished lens blanks" (col. 10, lines 46-49). Applicants respectfully submit that such definition of the term "lens" clearly indicate that Clark does not appreciate nor recognize that the edge contour of a contact lens (moulding) can be determined substantially by the spatial restriction of the energy impingement. More important, Clark teaches away from the present invention as currently claimed. Clark teaches that the polymerization of the lens material should proceed from the center of the mold outwards in order to avoid polymerizing that portion of the lens material in the mold which is adjacent the edge of the mold cavity and, consequently, blocking off the reservoir from the center section of the mold cavity (Col. 7, lines 5-11). To avoid polymerizing that portion of the lens material in the mold which is adjacent the edge of the mold cavity, Clark uses a diaphragm which may be an opaque screen having a circular opening which should be smaller than the diameter of the lens being cast in order to insure that the lens material adjacent to the edge of the mold is shielded from the radiation. In contrast to Clark, Applicants' inventionas currently claimed is to polymerize all together the portion of the crosslinkable material located in the mold cavity including the portion of

the crosslinkable material in the mold which is adjacent the edge of the mold cavity. Therefore, Applicants submit that Clark teaches away from the present invention and Clark does not disclose or suggest anything about "impinging in a spatially restricted manner the energy causing the crosslinking upon all the portion of the crosslinkable material located in the mould cavity and limited by a peripheral boundary defined by the spatial restriction of the energy impingement, so as to cause crosslinking of the portion of the crosslinkable material in the mould cavity to form the moulding, wherein the edge contour of the moulding is determined substantially by the spatial restriction of the energy impingement, so that a moulding is produced free from burrs or flashes".

In sum, Applicants respectfully submit that, since Clark does not teach or provide a motivation to arrive at the present invention, the Applicants invention as currently claimed is patentable over Clark and request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection.

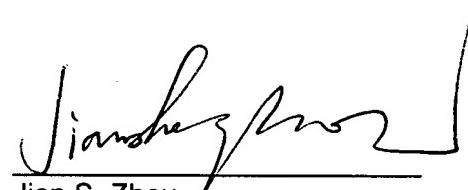
Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark in view of European Patent Application 484,015. For the following reasons, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed. As discussed above, the primary reference (Clark) does not anticipate nor render the present invention obvious. The secondary reference (European Patent Application 484,015) does not fill the gap left by the primary reference. Applicants respectfully submit that the primary reference, alone or in combination with the secondary reference, does not teach or provide a motivation to arrive at the present invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the Applicants invention as currently claimed is patentable over Clark in view of European Patent Application 484,015 and request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing and in conclusion, Applicants submit that the rejections set-forth in the Office Action have been overcome, and that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a discussion with Applicants' representative would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned. Please address all correspondence to Thomas Hoxie, Novartis Corporation, Corporate Intellectual Property, One Health Plaza, Bldg. 430, East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0134.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 3/7/2003

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**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made****In the claims:**

Please amend claims 1, 40 and 79 as follows:

1. (Twice amended) A process for the manufacture of mouldings that are crosslinked in a mould at least to a degree sufficient to be released from the mold, ~~in which process comprising the steps of: introducing~~ a crosslinkable material that is in a state in which it is at least partially uncrosslinked ~~is introduced~~ into the mould, ~~wherein the mould has~~ having a mould cavity determining the shape of the moulding to be produced and ~~is being~~ at least partially impermeable to an energy suitable to cause the crosslinking ~~of the crosslinkable material;~~ ~~providing the energy causing the crosslinking; and~~ ~~impinging in a spatially restricted manner by impingement of the energy causing the crosslinking upon all the portion of the at least partially uncrosslinked crosslinkable material located in the mould cavity and limited by a peripheral boundary defined by the spatial restriction of the energy impingement, so as to cause crosslinking of the portion of the crosslinkable material in the mould cavity to form the moulding, wherein the impingement of the energy causing the crosslinking upon the at least partially uncrosslinked material is restricted to the cavity and wherein the edge contour of the moulding is determined substantially by the spatial restriction of the energy impingement, so that a moulding is produced free from burrs or flashes.~~

40. (twice amended) A device for the manufacture of mouldings, comprising:

a closable and openable mould defining a mould cavity which is capable of determining the shape of a moulding to be produced therein, wherein the mould is at least partially permeable to an energy suitable to cause crosslinking of a crosslinkable material to be introduced into the mould;  
a source of ~~providing~~ energy suitable to cause crosslinking ~~of the crosslinkable material;~~ means for causing impingement of the energy ~~in a spatially restricted manner, upon all the portion of the crosslinkable material located in the mould cavity and limited by a peripheral boundary defined by the spatial restriction of the energy impingement, so as to cause crosslinking of the portion of the crosslinkable material in the mould cavity to form a moulding the mould, wherein the means for causing the impingement of the energy upon the mould is arranged such that the energy is restricted to the mould cavity and that the edge contour of the~~

moulding is determined substantially by the spatial restriction of the energy impingement, so that a moulding is produced free from burrs or flashes.

79. (once amended) A process for the manufacture of a crosslinked moldings, comprising the steps of:

(a) introducing a crosslinkable material into a cavity of a mold, wherein said mold is at least partially impermeable to a crosslinking energy suitable to crosslink the crosslinkable material and has a mold cavity determining the shape of the molding to be produced;

(b) providing the crosslinking energy; and

(c) causing the crosslinking energy to be impinged, in a spatially restricted manner and on said mold in an amount sufficient, upon all the portion of the crosslinkable material located in the mold cavity and limited by a peripheral boundary defined by the spatial restriction of the crosslinking energy impingement, to crosslink said the portion of the crosslinkable material in the mold cavity to a degree sufficient to form a the molding capable of being released from said mold, said mold cavity substantially determining the shape of the molding to be produced; and

— (c) restricting impingement of said crosslinking energy on said crosslinkable material to the shape-forming cavity of the mold;

wherein said mold is at least partially impermeable to said crosslinking energy and

wherein the edge contour of the molding is determined substantially by the spatial restriction of the energy impingement, thereby producing a molding substantially free from burrs or flashes.